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(c) NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

K1 REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT TO L-4950 (3/68)
25 MARCH 1968
PAGE 1ROAD AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINE U/C
NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER AREA
1702N 10633E1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BOARD DEPICTS MAJOR ROAD AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINE CONSTRUCTION IN SUPPORT OF THE KHE/SANH AND A SHAU VALLEY AREA.

2. LOCATION:

THE ROAD AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINE U/C ARE LOCATED ON THE NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER AREA, SOUTH OF DONG HOI, NORTH VIETNAM.

3. MISSION READOUT:

ANALYSIS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM MISSION [REDACTED] REVEALS 25X1
RAPID NORTH VIETNAMESE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MAJOR LOGISTICS ROUTE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINE, BOTH EXTENDING SOUTHWEST FROM THE DONG HOI AREA OF NORTH VIETNAM TOWARD THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE (DMZ).

THE NEW 16 NM ROAD SEGMENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION EXTENDS FROM THE EXISTING NORTH VIETNAMESE ROAD NETWORK, WEST OF LAKE LOC XA, AT 1711N 10638E, PROCEEDS GENERALLY SOUTH-SOUTHWEST (SEE INSET 1) TO THE PRESENT CONSTRUCTION TERMINUS AT 1702N 10633E, TWO NM FROM THE NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER AND 8.5 NM NORTH OF THE NORTHWEST TIP OF SOUTH VIETNAM. APPROXIMATELY 13 NM OF THE ROAD ARE PRESENTLY SERVICEABLE. MOST OF THE ROAD WAS CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 6 JANUARY 1968, AND 8 MARCH 1968, AND EVIDENCES THE USE OF MECHANIZED CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. TRUCK PARKS (ONE DEPICTED) AND NUMEROUS SMALL SUSPECT CONSTRUCTION

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

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Declassification Review by NGA

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25 MARCH 1968

PAGE 2

CAMPS CONSTITUTE SUPPORT FACILITIES.

THE NEWLY OBSERVED, OPEN-WIRE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRACE UNDER CONSTRUCTION GENERALLY PARALLELS AND ENHANCES THE VALUE OF THE NEW ROAD. A VISIBLE, THREE NM GAP SEPARATES THE NORTHERN END OF THIS TRACE FROM THE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING NORTH VIETNAM BRANCH LINE 4A. THE NEW TRACE EXTENDS INTERMITTENTLY SOUTH SOUTHWEST AND CROSSES THE NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER APPROXIMATELY TWO NM NORTH OF THE DMZ AT 1656N 10633E. FROM THIS POINT, IT IS DESIGNATED AS PART OF LAOS SOUTH VIETNAM LINE 1 AND EXTENDS GENERALLY SOUTH TO THE SEBANG HIANG (RIVER) (SEE INSET 2), IT THEN CROSSES AND GENERALLY PARALLELS THE RIVER UNTIL REACHING THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (NPIC/R-46/68) TERMINUS OF LAOS/SOUTH VIETNAM LINE 1 AT 1649N 10619E (SEE GRAPHIC). THIS LINE, WHEN COMPLETE, WILL PROVIDE OPEN-WIRE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FROM THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK ON LINE 4 AT 1717N 10638E TO THE KHE SANH/A SHAU VALLEY AREA OF SOUTH VIETNAM.¹

4. REMARKS:

THE NEW ROAD, CONSTRUCTED THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN IN NORTH VIETNAM, COULD EVENTUALLY PROVIDE (AS SHOWN BY THE COMPARABLE ROUTE 137/912) A NEW ALL WEATHER, MAJOR LOGISTICS ROUTE FROM NORTH VIETNAM TO ROADS NOW SERVING COMMUNIST FORCES THREATENING THE U.S. MARINE BASE AT KHE SANH IN SOUTH VIETNAM.²

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